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LB 126

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Synowiecki. On with discussion. Senator Fischer, followed by Senators Erdman, Flood, Stuthman, Heidemann, and six others.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, earlier when we were talking about filing this amendment, and it didn't come from a bill, it is an amendment. And as I stated before, this was our first response to Senator Raikes and especially to Senator Brashear when we moved on to Select File and we were going to start a negotiation process. The eight senators that were opposed to LB 126 and were most vocal about it met and we came up with this as our first step in the negotiations. Since that time, we have...we feel compromised quite a bit. We've worked through the steps. Senator Stuhr pointed out some things in this amendment, such as the four miles clause in here, the section dealing with that, if a school district was four miles away from another Class I district that they would be able to remain open. We compromised on that. We went to ten miles. We compromised on Class I districts here, Senators. We said that if there were certain protections that we would go to all K-12 districts. And that with those K-12 districts we did want some protections that those school buildings, that those attendance centers in the K-12 districts would have protections to remain open. We compromised on that. We compromised within our own group on a number of issues. We are still not at an agreement. As I said this morning, I have a whole handful of proposals that we have received and there's always a change. Yesterday we received another one. Last night at 8:30 we received another one. This morning at 8:30 we got another one, and now we have another one as we start this afternoon. We haven't had time to look these over. I haven't had time to look at an amendment that Senator Raikes filed this morning. We're still in discussions, though, and we're trying to see where we can come to some kind of agreement on this. But at this point this is what we're offering--AM1217--because this is the first point that we are at in...when we came through with our negotiations, when we started the middle of February and negotiated in good faith, when we met at least once a week through this entire session, only to have this come up as, what I would say is, at the last minute of the session, when we're